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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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2. Since that time, however, registration and induction procedures have changed considerably. I was never ordered to register for military service and have no information on the procedures involved.
3. The period of military service is being extended only for certain specialists, not for the average inductee. This I learned from friends, who feared that they would be compelled to remain in the service longer than the normal period, or from older married friends, who were apprehensive that they would be recalled into military service. Some of these persons received individually-written letters which exhorted them to serve as an honorary duty and stated that it would be possible, if desired, to enlist "voluntarily." I know that not only specialists in various technical fields (graduate engineers, physicians, etc) received such letters, but also clerical employees. Various promises, such as relatively high income and a higher military rank than that held in the reserve, were proffered to these persons.

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4. The Czechs in general have regarded military service as indispensable and inevitable, and, in many ways, as something natural. However, their attitude toward military service under the present Communist regime has changed. I heard numerous complaints from many individuals, who completed their compulsory military service or were on leave, concerning the rigid and harsh discipline and the grueling training methods prevailing in the Army. I never heard these persons complain about the food situation in the armed forces; on the contrary, it seems that a considerable improvement in food and clothing has occurred, at the expense of the civilian.
5. I know little about the actual military training methods. However, I was told that the Czech training program has become practically identical with that of the Red Army.
6. The military service period is being exploited by the Communists as an ideal opportunity to inculcate Communism into the rank and file of the Army. There is a vigorous propaganda campaign pervading the daily life of the soldier. The average soldier is virtually isolated from civilians for almost two years, leaves being granted only in rare instances and then only to the so-called "Vzorny Vojin" (exemplary soldiers). Many soldiers are unable to obtain a day-off from duty for many months. Yet the Army is not hated nearly as much as the SNB, the uniformed police.
7. The most trusted soldiers are being transferred from army units to border guard units (Pohranicni Straz), which are under the supervision of the Ministry of National Security. Two years of border duty is substituted for the normal military service.
8. Other information concerning the military service which I have obtained:
  - (a) The military maneuver region near Mimon in North Bohemia was greatly expanded recently, and the entire populations of several villages in the region were evacuated. I have heard that the East German "People's Police" was to conduct maneuvers in this region. Although one was still permitted to drive a car through a part of the area when I left, it was forbidden to stop one's vehicle there.
  - (b) In August 1951, the Medical Faculty in Hradec Kralove, the most modern medical school in Czechoslovakia, was ordered to devote its energies exclusively toward military ends. (The Hradec Kralove Medical Faculty was established in 1946 and had been supplied mainly with United States equipment, obtained from UNRRA as gifts or from Americans as donations.)
  - (c) All the students at the school were offered substantial material advantages in the summer of 1951 if they would join the military medical corps. Most students were compelled to "volunteer"; those who refused were sent to Kosice to work on construction projects and denied further support in the continuation of their studies. The teaching staff (some of whom were trained in the United States in 1945-1948 and considered to be the best in Czechoslovakia) was "requested" to remain in military service. All professors remained, with the exception of one professor who headed the Neurological Department and who was deported to Slovakia. These professors received either a colonel's or a general's rank.

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- (d) The political leader of this new - and possibly unique - Military Medical School in Czechoslovakia is Professor Ivan Malek, a biologist who is about 38 years old and is a blind follower of the Kremlin. He frequently travels to Moscow. A leader in the scientific field is Professor Bedrna a famous Czech surgeon.
- (e) The military Branch at the Medical Faculty at the University in Brno has been abolished. The new large hospital of the East Bohemian Region in Hradec Kralove is now being used by the Military Medical Faculty. The laboratories, library, and administration of the Faculty are located mainly in the new buildings formerly used by the East Bohemian Military Command.

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